

Message Text

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TO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: GDS

SUBJECT:US DECISIONS ON MBFR

REFS: A. NATO 5539 B. STATE 222751 C. NATO 5659

1. WASHINGTON AGENCIES DO NOT BELIEVE TIME IS YET RIPE FOR FORMAL ALLIANCE CONSIDERATION OF FOUR DECISIONS CITED REF A. AS MISSION IS AWARE, THE USG INTERNAL DECISIONS SET OUT IN STATE 211141 ARE DESIGNED TO BE INTRODUCED INTO NATO AT APPROPRIATE TIME FOR ALLIED MOVEMENT ON ISSUE CONCERNED.

2. NEVERTHELESS, WE UNDERSTAND MISSION'S CONCERN THAT ALLIES NOT HEAR FIRST ABOUT DECISIONS FROM UK AND FRG. IN CONSEQUENCE, MISSION MAY WISH TO IMPART THESE DECISIONS

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BILATERALLY TO THE OTHER ALLIES, AS WE HAVE DONE WITH FRG

AND UK, OR RESPOND TO ANY ALLIED QUERIES, DRAWING ON FOLLOWING.

3. IN ADDITION TO THE PROPOSALS ON AIR MANPOWER AND DATA ALREADY INTRODUCED INTO NATO, THE USG HAS REACHED CERTAIN OTHER DECISIONS CONCERNING REDUCTIONS AND EXCEPTIONS TO POST-REDUCTION MANPOWER LEVELS. WE HAVE NOT YET TAKEN THEM UP IN THE NAC CONTEXT BECAUSE WE WISH TO LEAVE THE WAY CLEAR FOR URGENT DATA AND AIR MANPOWER DISCUSSIONS.

AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME, THE US WILL BE SUBMITTING ITS DETAILED RECOMMENDATIONS ON EACH POINT. FOR THE TIME BEING, HOWEVER, THE FOLLOWING MAY BE SAID:

A. THE POSSIBILITY OF TAKING UNIT REDUCTIONS IS AN EFFORT TO REASSURE THE EAST THAT OUR FIRST PHASE WITHDRAWALS WOULD NOT BE COMPOSED ENTIRELY OF SUPPORT PERSONNEL SUCH AS "COOKS". IT DOES NOT MEAN THAT ALL US WITHDRAWALS WOULD TAKE THE FORM OF COMBAT UNITS.

B. THE BERLIN POINT IS MERELY A SELF-EXPLANATORY ASSURANCE TO THE ALLIES.

C. OUR DECISION ON THE DESIRABILITY OF THE PARTICIPATION OF BOTH US AND SOVIET FORCES IN PHASE II REDUCTIONS WILL PLACE US IN A BETTER POSITION TO DEAL WITH THIS POINT, AS APPROPRIATE, AND IS AN ATTEMPT TO ENSURE SOVIET PARTICIPATION IN PHASE II. WE ARE CONSIDERING HOW TO TREAT THIS ISSUE TACTICALLY IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE EAST.

D. THE US HAS DECIDED THAT WE SHOULD TELL THE EAST THAT WE WOULD REQUIRE THAT POST-REDUCTION GROUND MANPOWER LEVELS COULD BE EXCEEDED BY UP TO 20,000 MEN FOR UP TO SIXTY DAYS ONCE EACH YEAR FOR GROUND FORCE MILITARY EXERCISES SUCH AS REFORGER. WE HAVE NOT YET DETERMINED HOW OTHER EXCEPTIONS SHOULD BE TREATED IN MEASURE I OF PARA 29. (FYI: WITH REGARD TO LAST SENTENCE OF NATO 5659, WE WISH TO CLARIFY THAT WHATEVER DECISIONS ARE REACHED WITH RESPECT TO AIR MANPOWER, THE DECISION ON GROUND FORCE EXERCISES COULD BE INTRODUCED ON ITS OWN AT AN

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APPROPRIATE TIME. END FYI) KISSINGER

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